

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application. Applicant appreciates the indication that claims 33 and 34 contain allowable subject matter.

By this Amendment, independent claims 2 and 3 are amended to recite features similar to the allowable subject matter of claims 33 and 34. Non-elected independent claim 4 is similarly amended. Claims 33 and 34 are canceled.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge consideration of the references listed on, and to return an initialed copy of, the Form PTO-1449 submitted with the May 23, 2005 Information Disclosure Statement.

The Office Action rejects claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 10, 11, 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,172,721 to Murade et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,727,871 to Suzuki et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 2 and 3 are amended to recite features similar to the allowable subject matter of claims 33 and 34. For reasons similar to those recognized in the Office Action regarding the allowable subject matter of claims 33 and 34, Murade and Suzuki do not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claims 2 and 3, and claims 6, 7, 10, 11, 14 and 15 depending therefrom. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 10, 11, 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Non-elected independent claims 1 and 4 recite features similar to the allowable subject matter of claims 33 and 34. Thus, for similar reasons, claims 1 and 4, and claims 5, 8, 9, 12, 13 and 16 depending therefrom, should be rejoined and allowed.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-16 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Request for Continued Examination

Date: August 9, 2007

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